

RESOLUTION #2016 – 16 (Approved)

Resolution Supporting HB1510/SB974 in the Pennsylvania Legislature

Presented by Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Fairness Act (House Bill 1510 (HB 1510) / Senate Bill 974 (SB 974) are under consideration by both houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and

WHEREAS, these bills seek to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to ensure freedom from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and

WHEREAS, paragraph 162J of the *2012 Book of Discipline* commits The United Methodist Church to supporting “basic human rights and civil liberties ... for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation,” and

WHEREAS, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties, and

WHEREAS, Bishop Peggy Johnson has quoted paragraph 162J in support of these bills and has said that, “No one should be fired from their job, evicted from their home or refused services at a business because of their orientation or gender identity,” and

WHEREAS, these bills have been publicly supported by Lutheran, Presbyterian, Jewish, and Episcopalian congregations and faith leaders, and

WHEREAS, HB 1510 is co-sponsored by 84 State Representatives, SB 974 is co-sponsored by 25 State Senators, and there is bi-partisan support in both Houses of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf announced his support of these Bills during his campaign for office, has repeatedly called for their passage by the Legislature, and has pledged to sign them into law when passed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference supports and encourages the passing of these Bills in the Pennsylvania Legislature and the signing of the resultant Law by Governor Wolf;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Conference encourages Bishop Johnson, through her ministry with United Methodist Advocacy PA, to continue to communicate this endorsement of these Bills by the Conference to Gov. Wolf and State Legislators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Conference encourages all clergy and lay members of the Conference to contact their local legislators to communicate this support.

Person Responsible for presenting the Resolution: Rev. Andrea Brown